

## Milwaukie Business Relief Fund – Round 1

On [April 7, City Council](#) passed a resolution to establish a business relief fund to support small businesses in Milwaukie impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The fund is provided grants of \$1,500 - \$4,000 to businesses for working capital expenses, such as payroll, lease or commercial mortgage payments, utilities, insurance and inventory, among others. The funding for the first round of was allocated from the City of Milwaukie Construction Excise Tax program. The city awarded grants to 47 businesses.

### **Eligible businesses included:**

- Businesses with a current Milwaukie business license
- Public-facing businesses (retail, coffee shop, food service, etc.) directly impacted by the governor's executive orders, or businesses experiencing 25% or higher decline in revenue because of the coronavirus pandemic

### **Priority was given to businesses:**

- Directly impacted by Executive Order 20-07 and Executive Order 20-12
- With ten employees or less
- Women-owned, person of color-owned, or veteran-owned
- Included within city's economic development plans and strategies

### **Businesses did not qualify if were:**

- National franchise
- Non-profit organization
- Business or individual whose primary revenue is generated from rental properties
- Business owner with current liens or fees owed to the City of Milwaukie

### **Timeline:**

- *Application opened:* Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 8:30 AM
- *Application closed:* Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5 PM
- *Grant recipients notified:* Week of April 20, 2020
- *Grants resources sent to businesses:* By May 1, 2020

Approved businesses were awarded grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,000. Of the 47 grantees 45% are business owners of color, 79% are women-owned businesses, 6% are veteran-owned businesses, and 96% have ten employees or less.

The city received more than 100 relief fund applications from businesses requesting more than \$500,000 in assistance, demonstrating the significant need for support in the

Milwaukie community. More than half of the businesses receiving grants reported that the funding will go towards payroll and rent.

“Small businesses in Milwaukie are doing what they can to survive in these challenging times,” said Mayor Mark Gamba. “Our hope is that these grants, in some small measure, will help ease their burden.”

“Receiving this grant means we can continue to care for families, and our amazing, patient staff can continue to work,” said Geneva Perez, director of Sugarplums Learning Center and grant recipient. “This experience has definitely been an eye opener for us, but through all the chaos we have learned we are stronger than we believed. Families and staff have come together to create a positive atmosphere for the children that we love and care for.”

“While we’re happy we could find some funding to provide a bit of relief, we know the need for assistance far outweighs the resources available,” said Leila Aman, community development director. “The city focused grant awards on businesses with ten employees or less, owned by people of color, women and/or veterans—those that are statistically more at-risk economically—but we will continue to do our best to find resources and creative ways to support our small business community.”